

Abstract

The invention is directed to a method for signal processing in a rake receiver for spread spectrum signals and is directed to a rake receiver for spread spectrum signals comprising a plurality of rake fingers (9, 10, 11) each rake finger being adapted to receive a signal (7, 8) being part of a multipath signal (2) and associated with a path of the multipath, (said) signal (7, 8) having a delay (τ) relative to an other signal associated with an other path of the multipath (7, 8), said receiver ~~comprises~~ a summation unit (37) for generating an output signal from the signals received from of at least some of the rake fingers (9, 10, 11), (said) output signal being a summation signal having an improved signal to noise ratio (SNR) if compared with the signal to noise ratio (SNR) of at least one of the rake fingers (9, 10, 11), a timing error detector (12) for detecting a delay (τ) between signals of at least two rake fingers (9, 10, 11) and for generating a timing error signal which is sent to a unit (6) for compensating the error of the respective delay (τ); to provide a code-tracking unit for a direct-sequence code division multiple access (DS-CDMA) receiver having an improved tracking performance, especially in cases where delay times of multipath signals are in the order of the chip duration said timing error detector (12) generates a timing error signal (x, 13) based on the signals (7, 8) associated with paths of the multipath of more than one rake finger (9, 10, 11).